Plutarchus

PLUTARCH'S
DE ISIDE ET OSIRIDE

EDITED WITH AN INTRODUCTION
TRANSLATION AND COMMENTARY BY

J. GWYN GRIFFITHS

Reader in Classics in the University of Wales; Lady Wallis Budge Research Lecturer in Egyptology at University College, Oxford, 1957-58; Guest Professor in Classics and Egyptology at the University of Cairo, 1965–66; Corresponding Member of the German Archaeological Institute, Berlin

UNIVERSITY OF WALES PRESS
1970

DIVINE EQUATIONS

Ammon (Amûn)=Spirit which receives (40, 367C).
='What is concealed' (9, 354C).
=Zeus (9, 354C).
Anubis=Cronus (44, 368E).
=Dog in form (44, 368E).
=Dog in name with the additional meaning of 'conceiving' (44, 368E–F).
=Guard and attendant of Isis (14, 356F).
=Hecate in significance (44, 368E).
=Hermanubis (61, 375E).
=Horizon (44, 368E).
=Revealer of matters pertaining to the heavens (61, 375E).
Aphrodite=Mother of Harmonia (48, 370C).
=Nephthys (12, 355F).
=Quadrilateral in nature (30, 363A).
=Summer (69, 378E).
Apis=Bull from India (29, 362B).
=Corporate image of the soul of Osiris (20, 359B; 29, 362C–D; 43, 368B–C).
=Osiris (29, 362C).
=Son of Mnevis (33, 364C).
Apollo=the Elder Horus, Haroeris (12, 355E; 12, 356A; 54, 373B–C).
=Horus (61, 375F).
=the Monad (10, 354F).
=the Number One (75, 381F).
Apopis=Brother of Helius (the Sun) and enemy of Zeus (36, 365D).
Areimanius=Creator of evil (46, 369D–E).
Ares=Father of Harmonia (48, 370C).
=Triangle in nature (30, 363A).
Argo=Image of the vessel of Osiris (22, 359E).
Arsaphes=Dionysus (37, 365E).
Artemis=the Dyad (10, 354F).

Athena=Equilateral triangle (75, 381E).
=the Hebdomad (10, 354F).
=Isis (9, 354C; 62, 376A).
Athenaïs=Nemanous (15, 357B).
Athyri=Isis (56, 374B).
Bebon=One of the companions of Typhon (49, 371B–C; 62, 376A–B).
=Typhon (*ibid.*).
Cronus=Anubis (44, 368E).
=Time (32, 363D).
=Winter (69, 378E).
Cronus, tear of=the Sea (32, 364A).
Daemons, great=Typhon, Osiris, Isis (25, 360D).
Demeter=Corn (66, 377D–E).
=Quadrilateral in nature (30, 363A).
=(with Kore) Spirit which permeates the earth and crops (40, 367C).
Dikaiosynê (Justice)=Isis (3, 352A–B).
Dionysus=Arsaphes (37, 365E).
=Bringer of two bulls from India (29, 362B).
=Epaphus (37, 365E–F).
=God of the sacred basket, Liknitês (35, 365A).
=a God who was once a good daemon (27, 361E).
=Hades (28, 362A).
=Lord and originator of all moist nature (35, 365A).
=Osiris (28, 362B; 34, 364D; 36, 365D; 37, 365E).
=Spirit which procreates and nourishes (40, 367C).
=Triangle in nature (30, 363A).
=Wine (35, 365A; 66, 377D).
Dionysus *Hyês*=Lord of moist nature (34, 364D).
Epaphus=Dionysus (37, 365E–F).
=Osiris (37, 365E–F).
=Sarapis (37, 365E–F).
Eros=Osiris (57, 374C).
Hades=the Body (28, 362A).
=Dionysus (28, 362A).
=Osiris (78, 382E).
=Pluto (78, 382E).
=Triangle in nature (30, 363A).
Harmonia=Daughter of Aphrodite and Ares (48, 370C).

Haroeris (the elder Horus)=Apollo (12, 355 E; 12, 356 A; 54, 373 B–C).
=Picture and vision of the world to come (54, 373 C).
Harpocrates=Teacher of rational insight (68, 378 C).
Helius (the Sun)=Brother of Apopis (36, 365 D).
=Osiris (51, 371 F ff.; 52, 372 D).
=Typhon (41, 367 C; 51, 372 A; 52, 372 E).
Hephaestus=Fire (66, 377 D; cf. 32, 363 D).
Hera=the Air (32, 363 D).
=Quadrilateral in nature (30, 363 A).
Heracles=a God who was once a good daemon (27, 361 E).
=Spirit which overpowers and divides (40, 367 C).
Hermanubis=Anubis (61, 375 E).
Hermes=Creator of the epagomenal days (12, 355 D).
=Deformed in his arms (22, 359 E).
=Discoverer of writing, music and poetry (3, 352 A).
=Dog, but not literally (11, 355 B).
=Father of Isis (3, 352 A; 12, 355 F).
=Giver of cow head-dress to Isis (19, 358 D).
=Most discerning of the gods (11, 355 B).
=Reason (Logos) (54, 373 B).
=Recipient of festival of 19th of 1st month (68, 378 B).
=Tearer of sinews of Typhon (55, 373 C).
=Traveller in the moon (41, 367 D).
=Witness for Horus in his trial (54, 373 B).
Hermes, books of=Record of sacred names (61, 375 F).
Hestia=Quadrilateral in nature (30, 363 A).
Hierosolymus=Son of Typhon (31, 363 C–D).
Horomazes=Creator of good (46, 369 D–E).
Horus=Apollo (61, 375 F).
=Hypotenuse of the most beautiful triangle (56, 374 A).
=Maturing and mingling of the surrounding air (38, 366 A).
=Min (56, 374 B).
=the Nile (40, 367 B).
=the Perceptible world and image of what is spiritually intelligible (54, 373 A–B).
=Perfected achievement (56, 374 A).
=Power in charge of the sun (61, 375 F).
=Terrestrial world (43, 368 D).
Horus, bone of=Loadstone (62, 376 B).

eye of=Moon (52, 372 B; 55, 373 E).
=Sun (52, 372 B).
soul of=Orion (21, 359 C; cf. 22, 359 E).
Hysiris=Osiris (34, 364 D).
Isis=Arbiter in matters of sexual love (52, 372 D–E).
=Athena (9, 354 C; 62, 376 A).
=Athyri (56, 374 B).
=Base of the most beautiful triangle (56, 373 F f.).
=Creation (63, 376 E).
=Earth (32, 363 D; 39, 366 E; cf. 38, 366 A).
=Female principle in nature (53, 372 E).
=First of the Muses in Hermopolis (3, 352 A–B).
=Great daemon elevated to deity (25, 360 D ff.).
=Hastening with understanding (60, 375 C).
=Justice (Dikaiosynê) in Hermopolis (3, 352 A–B).
=Matter (ὕλη) (54, 373 B–C).
=Methyer (56, 374 B).
=the Moon, Selene (52, 372 D).
=Mouth (56, 374 B).
=Myriad-named (53, 372 E).
=Persephone (Persephassa) (27, 361 E).
=Receptive principle in procreation (53, 372 E; cf. 56, 374 A).
=Tethys (34, 364 D).
=What is above the earth and manifest (44, 368 E).
Isis, body of=Earth fructified by the Nile (38, 366 A).
image of=Cow (39, 366 E; cf. 19, 358 D).
soul of=Sothis or Sirius (21, 359 C; cf. 22, 359 E; 38, 365 F f.; 61, 376 A).
Iudaeus=Son of Typhon (31, 363 C–D).
Korê=(with Demeter) Spirit which permeates the earth and crops (40, 367 C).
Matter (ὕλη)=Isis (54, 373 B–C).
Methyer=Isis (56, 374 B).
Min=Horus (56, 374 B).
Mithrês (Mithras)=Mediator (46, 369 E).
Mnevis=Father of the Apis (33, 364 C).
Mouth=Isis (56, 374 B).
Nemanous=Athenaïs (15, 357 B).
Nephthys=Aphrodite (12, 355 F).
=Ends of the earth (38, 366 B; cf. 59, 375 B).

Nephthys (*cont.*)
=Nikê (Victory) (12, 355F).
=Teleutê (End) (12, 355F; 38, 366B; 59, 375B; 63, 376E).
=What is below the earth and invisible (44, 368E).
Nikê (Victory)=Nephthys (12, 355F).
Nile=Efflux of Osiris (38, 366A).
=Horus (40, 367B).
=Osiris (32, 363D; 39, 366C ff.).
Oceanus=Osiris (34, 364D).
Omphis=Benefactor=Osiris (42, 368B).
Orion=Soul of Horus (21, 359C; cf. 22, 359E).
Osiris=Apis (29, 362C).
=Bull from India (29, 362B).
=Dionysus (28, 362B; 34, 364D; 36, 365D; 37, 365E).
=Epaphus (37, 365E–F).
=Eros (57, 374C).
=Founder of civilization (13, 356A–B).
=a General (22, 359E; 72, 379F).
=Great daemon elevated to deity (25, 360D ff.).
=Hades (78, 382E).
=Hysiris (34, 364D).
=King of the dead (78, 382E).
=Mind and reason in the soul (49, 371A).
=Moist principle (33, 364A).
=Moon (41, 367B–D; 42, 367E; 42, 368A; 43, 368C; 44, 368D).
=Nile (32, 363D; 39, 366C ff.).
=Oceanus (34, 364D).
=Omphis=Benefactor (42, 368B).
=the Origin (56, 374A).
=Pluto (78, 382E).
=Power in charge of the wind (61, 375F).
=Reason (Logos) (54, 373B).
=Sarapis (28, 362B; cf. 61, 375F f.).
=Seirios (52, 372D).
=son of Zeus (36, 365D).
=Sun (Helius) (51, 371F ff.; 52, 372D).
=Vertical of the most beautiful triangle (56, 373F f.).
=the Well-ordered, good and useful (64, 376F f.; cf. 49, 371A–B).
Osiris, efflux of=Nile or all moisture (36, 365B; 38, 366A).

Osiris (*cont.*)
image of soul of=Apis (20, 359B; 29, 362D; 43, 368B–C).
image of vessel of=Argo (22, 359E).
name of=*Hosios* (Holy)+*Hieros* (Sacred) (61, 375D).
=many-eyed (10, 355A).
=Mighty (37, 365E).
plant of=Chenosiris (37, 365E).
Persephone (Persephassa)=Isis (27, 361E).
=Spring (69, 378E).
=Wind rushing through crops (66, 377D).
Pluto=Hades (78, 382E).
=Osiris (78, 382E).
=Sarapis (27, 361E; 28, 361F ff.).
Poseidon=the First cube (10, 354F).
=Spirit which permeates the Sea (40, 367C).
Rhea=Quadrilateral in nature (30, 363A).
Sarapis=Coffin of the Apis (29, 362C).
=Epaphus (37, 365E–F).
=He who orders the universe (29, 362B–C).
=Joy and gladness (29, 362D).
=Osiris (28, 362B; cf. 61, 375F f.).
=Pluto (27, 361E; 28, 361F ff.).
=Power in charge of the wind (61, 375F).
Seirios=Osiris (52, 372D).
Selene (Moon)=Isis (52, 372D).
=Mother of the world (43, 368C).
=Osiris (41, 367B–D; 42, 367E; 42, 368A; 43, 368C; 44, 368D).
Seth=Typhon (41, 367D; 49, 371B; 62, 376A–B).
Smu=Typhon (62, 376A–B).
Sothis (Sirius)=Soul of Isis (21, 359B; cf. 22, 359E; 38, 365F f.; 61, 376A).
Tartarus=Typhon (57, 374C).
Teleutê (End)=Nephthys (12, 355F; 38, 366B; 59, 375B; 63, 376E).
Têthys=Isis (34, 364D).
Tritogeneia=Equilateral triangle (75, 381E).
Typhon=Ass in attributed form (30, 362E ff.; 50, 371C).
=Bebon (49, 371B–C; 62, 376A–B).
=Corporeal element subject to death and disease (49, 371B).
=Crocodile in assumed form (50, 371D; cf. 50, 371C).

Typhon (*cont.*)
=Dry, fiery and scorching element (33, 364A f.; 39, 366C).
=Element which makes earthquakes and thunderstorms (55, 373C–D).
=Everything without measure and order (64, 376F f.).
=56-sided polygon in nature (30, 363A).
=Great daemon, classified as evil (25, 360D ff.).
=Harmful element in nature (45, 369A; 50, 371D; 59, 375B).
=Hippopotamus in attributed form (50, 371C f.).
=Passionate element in the soul (49, 371B).
=Sea (32, 363D ff.; 40, 367A–B; cf. 5, 352F).
=Seth (41, 367D; 49, 371B; 62, 376 A–B).
=Shadow of the earth which causes eclipse of the moon (44, 368F).
=Smu (62, 376A–B).
=Sun (41, 367C; 51, 372A; 52, 372E).
=Tartarus (57, 374C).
bone of=Iron (62, 376B).
image of=Hippopotamus (50, 371C).
son of=Hierosolymus (31, 363C–D).
son of=Iudaeus (*ibid.*).
soul of=Bear (21, 359D).
spit of=Salt (32, 363E).
Zeus=Ammon (Amûn) (9, 354 C).
=Dodecagon in nature (30, 363A).
son of=Osiris (36, 365D).

GENERAL INDEX

References are to pages, save when the text is referred to, in which case the chapter and section reference is given inside square brackets. References to the text precede the others, and the relevant place in the Commentary is then noted.

Abaton, of island (Bigeh) near Philae, [20, 359E], 365ff, 39, 342, 367; *Das Götterdekret über das Abaton* ed. H. Junker, 39, 148, 324, 338, 340, 342, 366, 367, 368, 420, 429, 446, 496, 564
Abaton, of Esna, 45
Abel, 414
Abstinence, *see* Ascetic rules; Foods, abstinence from
Abubakr, A. M., 546
Abu Simbel, colossi at, 381; lion at, 347
Abusir, 370
Abydos, important still, [20, 359A], 363, 98; wealthy Egyptians buried in, [20, 359A–B], 362f.
43, 47, 84, 312, 324, 332, 342, 353, 356, 359, 362, 363, 366, 411, 444, 449, 521, 534; and embalming, 35; and Nedyet, 321, 341; probable origin of Osiris cult, 36, 300, 369; and tomb of Osiris, 341, 369
Abyssinia, 447; Abyssinians, rite of adoption among, 327
Academy, 28, 74; zeal for Zoroaster, 472; and Zoroastrian chronology, 471f
Acarnania, 265
Accubitio, 282
Achaea, halls of, [69, 378D–E], 538, 48; 'sorrowing one', 538
Achaea, Plutarch in, 18
Achilles, 293, 328, 386
Achilles Tatius, 274, 552
Acron, doctor at Athens, [79, 383D], 568; and Empiricists, 568
Acropolis, 542
Actaeon, 544
Adad-nirari III, 381
Adam, J., 357, 509
Admonitions of an Egyptian Sage, 320
Adonis, 327, 334; corpse of, 325; in Alexandria, 320; and Osiris, 35, 334; and swallow, 329; and Tammuz, 281
Adultery, punishment of, 317; of Osiris, *see* Osiris
Aeacus, son of Hercules, [29, 362B], 402
Aegean islands, 41
Aegipan, 507
Aelian, 93, 99, 274, 528; *NA*, 78, 93, 128, 162, 234, 236, 273, 314, 315, 329, 403, 411, 412, 418, 422, 425, 460, 462, 492, 494, 501, 507, 546, 548, 549, 551, 555, 558, 559; on Cambyses, 468; on crocodile, 557; on crocodile cult, 416; *Var. hist.*, 542
Aeneas of Gaza, *Theophrastus*, 481
Aeschylus, on purity and myth, [20, 358E], 356f
75, 378; *Ag.*, 322; *Eum.*, 483, 514, 561; *Ixion*-trilogy, 356f; *Pers.*, 298, 339; *PV*, 136, 443; *Supp.*, 259, 339, 443, 566
Aesculapius, and Sarapis, 399
Aeternitas, 255
Aëtius, *Plac.*, 384
African animal world, 494, 554
African origin, of sistrum, 527
Agape, and Isis, 58
Agathodaemon, sacred serpent, 461
Agathos Daemon, 519; and Knêph, 734
Agelessness, and cobra, *see* Cobra
Agriculture, beginnings of, [70, 378Ff], 540, 309
Ahriman, 472, 475; offerings to, 474; Prince of Darkness, 475, 481; relation to Ahura Mazda, 474, 486; and shadows, 481f; six ministrants of, 476; and Typhon, 28; *see also* Areimanius
Ahura Mazda, 472, 475, 480; creator of stars, 477; and Holy Spirit, 496; offerings to, 475; and Osiris, 28, 486, 487; relations to Ahriman, 474, 486; rest of, 482; seated on high, 477; six creations of, 476; victory of, 479; 'Wise Lord', 473, 486; *see also* Horomazes